



February 25, 2009

Taiga Forum Announces New Provocative Statements for 2009

The Taiga 4 Steering Committee is pleased to announce a new set of “provocative statements” about libraries and the information environment. These ten statements represent the combined wisdom, eagerness, impatience and engagement of more than 50 Associate University Librarians and Associate Directors who attended the Taiga 4 Forum in Denver, on January 22, 2009. These follow the pattern of the first set of Provocative Statements, which were produced in 2006. Those have been widely discussed in the community, but over time have become less provocative. Some have been proved wrong, some have proved prescient, but, like computer hardware, after three years it’s time to replace them.

The Taiga Steering Committee, composed of 12 AULs, hammered out 10 draft statements in the fall of 2008. Prior to the annual Taiga Forum held in January 2009, ten attendees volunteered, each to prepare a very brief “lightning talk” for one statement. Each presentation was followed by mediated “lightning responses” from the assembled Taigans. Moderator Robert MacDonald of Indiana University kept things hopping, occasionally unnerving a speaker by pointing a digital camera in her direction. Paragons of efficiency, we dispatched all ten statements by lunch time. Later in the day, inspired by the morning’s “lightning rounds”, the group revised the initial statements. We present them now, in the context of the 2006 statements, and the 2009 pre-forum version. All three sets of statements can be found online at:

2006 Statements: <http://www.taigaforum.org/documents/ProvocativeStatements.pdf>

2009 Draft: <http://www.taigaforum.org/documents/Taiga%20%20Provocative%20Statements.pdf>

2009 Final: <http://www.taigaforum.org/documents/Taiga%20%20Statements%20After.pdf>

Please feel free to use these statements to stimulate your own thinking, to update environmental scans, to inspire strategic planning, or to provoke your colleagues. We ask only that you mention Taiga as the source.

About Taiga: Taiga is the land between the tundra and deciduous forests and grasslands. Taiga is about a changing environment, a place of shifting boundaries. Likewise in libraries, advances in information technology and user expectations demand that AULs and Assistant Directors move beyond the borders and transcend the traditional library organization. The Taiga Forum was formed to give librarians working at the Assistant/Associate University Librarian (AUL) and Assistant/Associate Director (AD) levels an opportunity to share ideas about our changing library environment.

For more information send us email: info@taigaforum.org or visit our website: www.taigaforum.org